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# SCIENCE

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## SYSTEMATIC ZOOLOGY: ITS PROGRESS AND PURPOSE \*

It is most fitting that in this year, when the scientific world is commemorating the natal centenaries of two naturalists who have been regarded as the chief systematists of their times, consideration should be given to the subject and object of their old pursuits. Carl Linné, whose bicentenary has been celebrated, was the man who first provided an elaborate code of laws for the nomenclature of all the kingdoms of nature and set an example to others by provision of concise and apt diagnoses of the groups and species he recognized. Louis Agassiz, who was born during the centenary year of Linné, gave a grand impulse to the study of nature in his adopted country, raised it in popular esteem, taught new methods of work and directed to new lines of investigation.

Of all the students of nature from the time of Aristotle to the century of Linné, none requires present notice as a systematic zoologist except John Ray, who was the true scientific father of the Swede. Born in 1627, he flourished in England during the last quarter of the seventeenth century, and died only two years before the birth of Linné.

### JOHN RAY

It was long ago truly affirmed by Edwin Lankester that "Ray has been pronounced by Cuvier to be the first true systematist of the animal kingdom, and the principal

\* Address before the Section of Systematic Zoology, Seventh International Zoological Congress.